

THE REMARKABLE RESILIENCE OF THE CITIZENS OF WEST, TEXAS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday, I visited the town of West, Texas, to see for myself how the investigation of the fertilizer plant explosion is proceeding. The town has suffered incredible losses, but I was impressed by the resilience of the people in West, and it is remarkable how the community has come together after that tragedy.

It is at the very beginning stages of collecting the facts and findings into how these events transpired. I have been working closely with the staff on the Energy and Commerce Committee who are looking into the voluminous material on the matter and will continue to oversee the Federal Government's response to this tragedy as the investigation unfolds.

I wanted to personally thank Assistant State Fire Marshal Kelly Kistner; the ATF agents who handled the Federal investigation; the FEMA coordinating officer, Kevin Hannes; and the district director for Congressman BILL FLORES, Timothy Head. I want to thank each of them for their service to our country and to the community of West. God bless our State.

IMMIGRATION BILL OPPOSED

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, National Review and The Heritage Foundation both oppose the Senate immigration bill for many good reasons.

There is no deadline for secure borders, yet millions of illegal immigrants would be given amnesty 6 months after the bill is enacted. This would only encourage more illegal immigration.

The Senate immigration bill would double the already record 1 million legal immigrants admitted every year. Most Americans oppose this and instead want to make sure that current immigrants are assimilated.

The bill puts foreign workers ahead of the interests of American workers and the economic needs of our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is inconceivable that an immigration bill with these huge flaws would be approved.

READ THE BILLS ACT

(Mr. BENTIVOLIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Read the Bills Act to provide transparency and accountability from all of us to our constituents.

Read the Bills would provide that Members of Congress and the public

have 1 week to review any bill and proposed amendments before voting on passage. It requires legislation be passed by rollcall, and it makes legislation easier to read by requiring that we show, in context, how bills would affect existing law.

It is a basic moral question that a Member of Congress should only vote to pass legislation having read and understood it. Every law affects how the American people live: who prospers and who suffers, who receives help and who is hurt, who is regulated and who benefits. We cannot pass laws without knowing what they do.

No legislation should be passed under cover of procedure. It is our duty to be transparent to our constituents, and I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will agree that this is an important step to rebuilding the trust between the American people and Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1707

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 5 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VIETNAM VETERANS DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 588) to provide for donor contribution acknowledgments to be displayed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 588

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Vietnam Veterans Donor Acknowledgment Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. DONOR CONTRIBUTION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AT THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER.

Section 6(b) of Public Law 96-297 (16 U.S.C. 431 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4) by striking the "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5) by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) notwithstanding section 8905(b)(7) of title 40, United States Code—

"(A) the Secretary of the Interior shall allow the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to acknowledge donor contributions to the visitor center by displaying, inside the visitor center, an appropriate statement or credit acknowledging the contribution;

"(B) donor contribution acknowledgments shall be displayed in a form approved by the Secretary of the Interior and for a period of time commensurate with the level of the contribution and the life of the facility;

"(C) the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund shall bear all expenses related to the display of donor acknowledgments;

"(D) prior to the display of donor acknowledgments, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. shall submit to the Secretary for approval, its plan for displaying donor acknowledgments;

"(E) such plan shall include the sample text and types of the acknowledgments or credits to be displayed and the form and location of all displays;

"(F) the Secretary shall approve the plan, if the Secretary determines that the plan—

"(i) allows only short, discrete, and unobtrusive acknowledgments or credits;

"(ii) does not permit any advertising slogans or company logos; and

"(iii) conforms to applicable National Park Service guidelines for indoor donor recognition; and

"(G) if the Secretary of the Interior determines that the proposed plan submitted under this paragraph, does not meet the requirements of this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

"(i) advise the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. not later than 30 days after receipt of the proposed plan of the reasons that such plan does not meet the requirements; and

"(ii) allow the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to submit a revised donor recognition plan.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last year, Jan Scruggs, president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, came to my office and told me about an absurd fund-raising problem he had. He told me that in order to build a much-needed education center at the Vietnam Wall, he had to raise nearly \$100 million of private money. Normally, this would not be a big problem; however, in this case,